

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



July 2011



Expedition to Kanton Island, T31A

MEETING PROGRAM:

SDDXC members Jim Price, K6ZH, and Bud Semon, N7CW, will present the April, 2011 T31A DXpedition to Kanton Island

MEETING NOTICE:

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER

AERO DRIVE & MURPHY CANYON RD

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22, 2011

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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The Prez Sez

Gayle Olson K6GO



This is my last article as your San Diego DX Club President, and this is going to be a thank you letter to all of you. I accepted this position with great trepidation. My greatest worry was that I could never measure up to the technical expertise that previous presidents have had. That said, you have all been wonderfully supportive.

I wish to say a very special and affectionate thank you to all of you who have known about my personal situation over the last three plus years. You have been there for me and protective of me. I will always remember that.

To our SDDXC Board: you are the best. All of our meetings have been positive and congenial. We have dealt with issues and votes. On all occasions we have come to an amicable consensus. The board meetings have been at my home, and the toilet seats have always been left down. Thank you considerate OMs.

To our outgoing officers: Leon, Tom and Dick, I tip my hat to you in thanks for your service. Leon, you have been an extremely accurate and competent Secretary/Treasurer. Tom, your input and assistance on the Board for the past three years has been very valuable. Dick, you joined our Board this year as Vice President and have provided us with a year of informative guest speakers and programs.

As we transition to John, K6AM becoming President, I wish you the best. John, I will do anything I can to support your presidency and am delighted you will be my successor. John, WA6L how fortunate our club will be to have you step up to a leadership role for the first time as our Vice President. Ellen, N6UWW will be an outstanding Secretary/Treasurer, and now we will have not one but two YLs on the Board. Better watch out boys.

Lastly, I hope I have measured up in some small way to your expectations as our club president. I truly took this responsibility seriously and gave it my best effort. Again, I thank you all for your support. It has been my great honor to serve you.

Be well and do good DX deeds.

Big fat 88!

73,

Gayle

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

Treasurers Report

Leon Helms, N6VS



Treasurers Report

Bank Balance as of April 1, 2011	\$4,952.15
Income:	
Member dues	20.00
Expenses:	
March speaker's dinners	9.67
Speaker mugs (PJ2T)	60.00
Office expenses for dues collection)	19.96
Ending balance April 29, 2011	4,882.52
Petty cash	20.00
Total club funds	\$4,902.52
Legal fund:	20.25
Shirt and hat sales:	367.53

(Both of these balances are included in the bank balance, but a separate accounting is maintained.)

San Diego DX Club Meeting Minutes

The San Diego DX Club held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2011 at the Sizzler Restaurant, Aero drive at Murphy Canyon Road.

Our vice president Dick, K6GAK called the meeting to order at 6:30. 28 members and guests were present. Hamid, 9K2HN was recognized as our DX visitor of the evening. Terry N6NRQ was also recognized as a visitor.

Wayne NN6R thanked his assistants on the nominating committee Jim W6YI and Tom N6JOJ. Hr then presented the committee report.

- President, John Barcroft, K6AM
- Vice President, John Graf, WA6L
- Secretary/Treasurer, Ellen Utschig, N6UWW
- Board Member, Bob Grimmick, N6OX

Dick then opened the floor for nominations. On hearing none, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed that recommended slate be declared elected.

Claude KD6CYS was accepted by the membership as an associate member.

After a short break, the evenings program, the VK0IR video of the 1997 Heard Island expedition was shown

Hamid 9K2HN presented the club a highly detailed wooden model of a sailing ship.

The DX Roundtable was lively as usual with members reporting their success (or lack thereof) in working the rare ones, in addition to observations on propagation and station activities.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon, N6VS secretary/treasurer

The SDDXC Top 10

(Expanded Version)

John, K6AM



TOTAL BAND-COUNTRIES WORKED

6/11	6/10	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	N6ND	377	2210	2248	2864	+47
2.	2.	K6AM		2600	2635	2659	+4
3.	3.	K6TQ	373	2633	2633	2633	-
4.	4.	N6CW	353	?	2116	2549	-
5.	5.	N7CW	366	1951	1951	2435	-
6.	8.	K6XT	353	1948	1981	2354	-
7.	7.	W6YA	348	?	?	2389	-
8.	10.	W6YI	351	2027	2085	2346	+128
9.	11.	W6YOO	306	2066	2079	2079	-
10.	12.	K6ZH	326	1811	1830	1985	+38
11.	13.	K0XB	314	1804	1834	1962	+155
12.	14.	WN6K	299	1306	1337	1704	+54
13.	-.	K6KT		763	786	1619	NEW
14.	18.	N6VS	266	1284	1301	1382	+75
15.	16.	NN6K	206	1308	1308	1345	-
16.	17.	W6CN		1206	1228	1314	-
17.	19.	N7TY	249	1226	1226	1286	-
18.	-.	AD6ZJ	283	1056	1067	1237	NEW
19.	20.	W6TUR		1091	1091	1208	-
20.	-.	K9RHY	201	962	975	975	NEW

Some nice big jumps again this time in the TBC category, the granddaddy of DX'ing, mostly coming from the 36 new PJ counters. Rick, N6ND holds his lead at number one for the tenth year with the highest score I've seen on the West Coast. There's plenty of room to make a decent gain in this category by getting on those bands where your totals are still low. Things will start heating up now that the cycle is on the upswing. For the TBC list, we are showing the first 20 places to accommodate the large number of entries in this category.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser-recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 6/160 and RTTY followed by phone and CW. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

73, John, K6AM

DX Is!!



From the T31A.com web site:

Kiribati, officially the Republic of Kiribati, is an island nation located in the central tropical Pacific Ocean. It is composed of 32 atolls and one raised coral island, dispersed over 3.5 million square kilometres, (1,351,000 square miles) straddling the equator, and bordering the International Date Line to the east. The name Kiribati is the local pronunciation of "Gilberts", derived from the main island chain, the Gilbert Islands.

When Jim Price, K6ZH (who will be co-presenting the T31A DXpedition with Bud Semon, N7CW at the June meeting) sent me what is now this month's cover picture and a brief description of the program as an email some days back, I started scrounging around for some of my old Pacific Islands QSL cards. I found a half-dozen Canton Island cards, but I also found one from VR1G confirming a QSO in 1962, one from VR3E confirming a QSO in 1963, one from VR1AF confirming a QSO in 1978 and another from VR1BE confirming a QSO from 1979.

How VR1 and VR3 Became VR8, T2, T3Ø, T31, T32 and T33

QSO WITH	CONFIRMING QSO						
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHz	RST	2 WAY
K9RHY	11	✓	79	2321	28.55	SSB	

Ed Bennett

73

QSL via N6ADI
BOX 379
OJAI, CA. 93023

The VR1G QSL said "Gilbert & Ellice Is. Colony, Central Pacific" and the operator John Walker had "Ocean Island" printed below his name. The VR1AF QSL card from Al Templar said "Ocean Island, Gilbert Islands". The VR3E QSL card from Gene Lewis who had an APO address, said "Christmas Island" and the VR1BE QSL from Ed Bennett said "Canton Island British Phoenix". Since the upcoming program was going to be about Kanton Island and the recent T31A DXpedition, I decided to do some more digging.

"The ARRL DXCC List" Prefix Cross Reference says that VR1 from before 1980 should be counted as T3. But which T3? There are now four T3s! While trying to understand how to cross-reference the various T3s, I decided to look into the history of this Central Pacific region.

While under British rule, the Central Pacific was divided into just two DXCC entities: VR1 and VR3. The British discovered the Gilbert Islands in 1764, making them a protectorate in 1892. In 1915, these islands were converted to a colony with the Ellice Islands. Later in 1975, the Gilbert and Ellice Islands were separated and each awarded self-government status. The Gilbert Islands became the nation of Kiribati (pronounced "Ki-ri-bas"), and designated T3 at the time.

In 1976, Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands became the head of the new Kiribati Government, or T3Ø, and was then designated as West Kiribati in 1979.

The Ellice Islands were sighted in 1568 by Alvaro de Mendenña de Neira and became a British protectorate in 1892. In 1915, they were annexed with the Gilbert Islands and when the Ellice Islands were separated from the Gilbert Islands, they became known as Tuvalu, and assigned the prefix VR8 during the transition period 1976 till 1979.

In 1979, Tuvalu was assigned the T2 prefix. The Phoenix Islands became a part of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony in 1937. They are also called "Rawaki" and became T31 in 1979. Ocean Island was also made a part of the Gilbert & Ellice Island Colony and has always been a part of Kiribati.

Ocean Island is now Banaba Island.

In the late 1970's, when the guano upon which the island's economy was built became exhausted, the native residents of Banaba Island purchased the island of Rambi (also Rabi) from Fiji, that was for a time administered from the Republic of Kiribati capital.

With all the DXpeditioning of the 1970's, I am left wondering why the island of Rambi, about 1,600 miles from Banaba Island, wasn't a separate DXCC entity during the period with the prefix of, say, T34. Any Club members know?



The collection of Islands, including Gilbert & Ellice Island, Ocean Island and the Phoenix Islands, was formerly designated VR1 until Kiribati gained self-rule and Ellice Island was separated.

The Line Islands cover a large area of the Pacific Ocean and includes Christmas Island, VR3, (now Kiritimati) and Starbuck Island. For IOTA hounds, Starbuck Island, OC-280, was first activated as T32SI in March 2010.

Back to Kiribati. Once formed, the island/nation wanted to claim the Phoenix Islands and most of the Line Islands. Since before WWII, the British and the U.S. each laid claim to certain islands in each group, and exercised joint control by agreement. In order to achieve the Kiribati objective, the U.S. relinquished all claims to the sparsely inhabited Phoenix and Line Island groups in a 1979 treaty of friendship with Kiribati. The Phoenix Island Group then became Central Kiribati, or T31, and the Line Island Group became East Kiribati, or T32.

There remains a question over how Ellice Island (Tuvalu) was counted for DXCC purposes during the three-month period between when they were legally separated from the Gilbert Islands in October 1975 and the actual hand-over of authority on 01 January 1976. Lloyd and Iris Colvin (W6KG and W6QL) operated there as VR1Z at the end of 1975 and the beginning of 1976. The DXCC desk at the ARRL finally concluded that it counted as VR1 until January 1, 1976, when it began being counted as T2.

My VR1BE QSL card counts for T31. My VR3E QSL card counts as T32. My VR1AF and VR1G QSL cards count as T33. Phew!

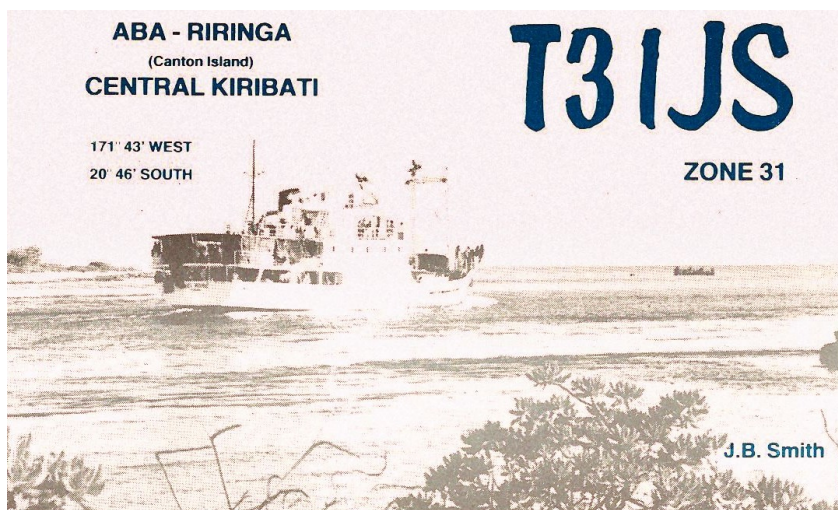
Concluding the history lesson, Kiribati continues to attempt to gain control over the Baker & Howland Islands (annexed by the U.S. in 1935), Kingman Reef (annexed by the U.S. in 1922), Palmyra (annexed by the U.S. in 1898), and Jarvis Island (annexed by the U.S. in 1936). There is some thought that the U.S. Government may consider turning one or more of these islands over to Kiribati in return for "certain rights and concessions". Should that happen, the islands turned over to Kiribati will most likely become deleted entities.

During my digging, I came across the following story about an earlier DXpedition to Canton Island written by Jim Smith, VK9NS (SK) published in a 1989 edition of the "Heard Island DX Association Club Newsletter" (I am HIDXA Member Number 175). I thought it might add some background to the mega-DXpedition presentation we will hear shortly.

Canton Island T31JS 1988

By Jim, VK9NS

The shipping company in Tarawa, Kiribati which owns the vessel chartered by H.I.DX.A. for our DXpedition to Howland Island, serves the outlying islands on a regular basis and I was aware that the next scheduled trip was to Fanning Island. I approached the shipping company and it was agreed that the ship would drop me off at Canton Island en route to Fanning. With a bit of luck, 17 days later, the ship would call into Canton and pick me up for the return trip to Tarawa. I must admit that it was with mixed feelings I watched the ship leaving Canton Island on her way to Fanning. My photo of this event features on the T31JS QSL card!



Canton Island was quite rare in a DX sense and, like many other places, had undergone huge changes. Joint administration by Britain and the U.S. (VR1 and KH1) had ended with Canton having been given back to its rightful Kiribati owners.

During the joint administration, the U.S. end of Canton had become a huge complex with communication facilities, buildings and infrastructure of power and water laid on. The Island was home to many U.S. military personnel during those endless missile shots across the Pacific.

Can you visualize a huge ghost town area? The empty derelict cinema, the trucks standing where they had been left, the huge empty accommodation buildings, the empty "gutted" communications buildings, a huge satellite dish pointing aimlessly to the sky...

Consider the other end - the old VR1 area of British Phoenix. Now a small area of dilapidated wooden buildings, the old 'signals' room, the Administrator's house with that hard teak floor outlasting all else. The days when the flying boats of PANAM landed there, the slipway, the plaques commemorating this and that. This was the stuff of VR1. A couple of very old cars are still standing there, one outside the old hotel.... Again a feeling of history and now desolation.

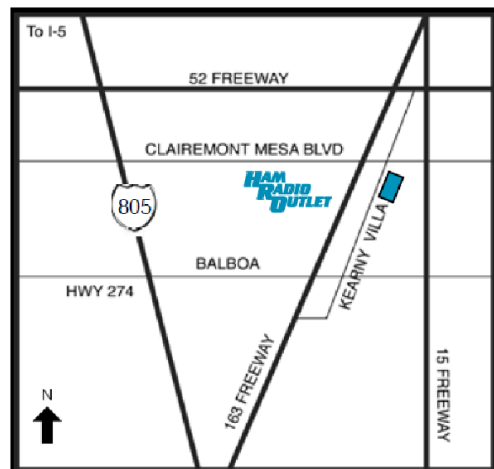
The small groups of Kiribatisans who live on Canton Island are very special and they rescued me from my very dilapidated operating area (complete with rats) and insisted that I join them in their community.



H.I.DX.A. had forged another link with an Island community in the name of Amateur Radio and DXing.

73, Bob Farkaly, K9RHY, Editor SDDXC Bulletin

Late June and July 2011 Contests				
Contest	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
ARRL Field Day	25-Jun	1800Z	26-Jun	2100Z
IARU HF World Championship	9-Jul	1200Z	10-Jul	1200Z
RSGB IOTA Contest	30-Jul	1200Z	31-Jul	1200Z



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DX Is!!